

Minutes
Small Business Advocacy Council
Special Meeting

May 26, 8:00-9:30 a.m.

RI Department of Environmental Management
235 Promenade St., Providence, RI
Room 300

1. Meeting Called to Order – 8am:
2. Jennifer Wood, Chief of Staff and General Counsel for the Lt. Governor, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Lt. Governor and welcomed the presenters from Massachusetts and Rhode Island who came to speak at this special session of the SBAC.
3. Ms. Wood introduced April Lamoureux for the Massachusetts Permit Regulatory Office and Mark Racicot of the Massachusetts Metropolitan Area Planning Council. These special guests from the Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies made a presentation on the report: *“Best Practices Model for Local Land Use Permitting”*

The full text of the report can be found online at www.mass.gov/mpro . Ms. Lamoureux and Mr. Racicot reported about the strategies that Massachusetts permitting authorities have used to streamline permitting in the interests of spurring economic development activity. They particularly emphasized the effectiveness of a strategy of pre-approval permitting for specially designated sites for particular purposes.

4. Ms. Wood thanked the speakers from Rhode Island:
 - Senator Erin Lynch, Chair Senate Task Force on Small Business Growth and Development
 - Keith Stokes, Executive Director, Economic Development Corporation
 - Michael DiMascolo, Chief Deputy, Rhode Island State Fire Marshall’s Office
 - Terry Gray, Assistant Director, Department of Environmental Management
 - Michael Cassidy, City of Pawtucket

Each of the presenters spoke to the question: How Will Recent Executive and Legislative Proposals make it Easier to do Business in Rhode Island?

The speakers discussed the initiatives set forth in the Senate small business commission report and legislative package including regulatory streamlining and other efforts to make the business climate better for small businesses in RI and how these initiatives will serve to benefit small business development in RI.

5. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 am.